89148

FACT SHEET

EPA REGION 7

MARTHA C. ROSE CHEMICALS, INC.
HOLDEN, MISSOURI

JULY 1991

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requesting public comment on the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) reports and the proposed plan for the remediation of PCB-contaminated materials at the Martha C. Rose Chemicals, Inc. site in Holden, Missouri. Public comments will be considered by EPA in deciding which alternative will be chosen to address the contamination at the Rose site.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Martha C. Rose Chemicals, Inc. site is located in Holden, Missouri, approximately 50 miles southeast of Kansas City, Missouri. The Rose facility occupies approximately thirteen acres and contains two major structures: the Main Building and the South Warehouse. It also contains a small shed, a spill containment pond, and three storm water retention ponds. An intermittent, unnamed tributary to East Pin Oak Creek flows through the southwest corner of the Rose facility.

A predecessor to Rose, PCB Eliminators operated a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) handling company in 1981 and used the site as a transfer facility for approximately one year. In 1982, Rose began processing PCBs and PCB-contaminated equipment at the site under EPA approval. Rose operated at this location until it abandoned the site in February 1986. During these four years, Rose received approximately 23 million pounds of PCB materials from other companies for treatment or disposal. When Rose ceased operation in February 1986, it abandoned approximately 17 million pounds of PCB materials onsite.

A group of potentially responsible parties (PRPs) for the Rose site performed a removal effort from July 1987 to October 1988. PCB materials abandoned at the Rose site, including PCB liquids, capacitors, transformers, other bulk material, and highly contaminated soil, were removed from the site and either incinerated or landfilled.

This group of PRPs performed an RI/FS study at the site from January 1989 to September 1990, overseen by the EPA. The RI/FS was conducted to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at the Rose site, to assess potential impacts of this contamination on public health and the environment, and to evaluate alternatives for appropriate remedial actions at the site.

RESULTS OF THE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The media sampled during the RI included site soils, groundwater, sediments, and site buildings. Subsurface soil in the vicinity of the storm and sanitary sewers leading from the Main Building contained PCBs. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) were detected in subsurface soils mainly beneath the onsite sanitary sewer and around the former degreasing pit in the South Warehouse. Most of the surface soil contamination was confined to the eastern part of the site where Rose carried out its operations.

Groundwater samples from wells on the west side of the Main Building contained low-level PCBs. VOCs were detected primarily in the shallow groundwater west of the South Warehouse and north of the Main Building.

PCBs were detected in sediment samples from East Pin Oak Creek; the unnamed tributary; the onsite spill containment pond; and the drainage ditch leading to the onsite storm water retention pond. VOCs were detected in sediment samples from East Pin Oak Creek.

PCBs were detected in exterior and interior wipe samples from both the Main Building and the South Warehouse. Concrete core samples from both buildings also contained PCBs. VOCs were detected mainly in subsurface soil samples collected from beneath the South Warehouse; near the former degreasing pit; and near the north door of the Main Building, where solvents were reportedly used and stored. Based on currently available information, the VOCs that were detected do not represent a major health concern.

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES

Six remediation alternatives were evaluated in the feasibility study and proposed plan. Alternatives 2 through 6 each include three disposal options for any removed contaminated materials. Off-site landfilling, off-site incineration, or onsite incineration would be used as the disposal option.

Alternative 1- No Action: Under the no action alternative, the site would be left in its current condition, with the addition of a site fence, warning signs, and property deed restrictions prohibiting future use of the site.

Alternative 2- Remove PCB Sediments; Cap Site Soils: Under this alternative, PCB-contaminated sediments would be removed and disposed. Contaminated site soils would be capped.

Alternative 3A and 3B- Remove PCB Sediments, Cap (3A) or Remove (3B) Site Soils; Decontaminate Buildings and Concrete: Under these alternatives, PCB-contaminated sediments would be removed and disposed. Contaminated site soils would either be capped (3A) or removed and disposed (3B). The site buildings and concrete slabs would be decontaminated and left in place.

Alternative 4- Remove PCB Sediments; Cap Site Soils and Concrete; Remove Buildings: Under this alternative, PCB-contaminated sediments and the building structures would be removed and disposed. Contaminated site soils and the concrete building slabs would be capped.

Alternative 5A and 5B- Remove PCB Sediments; Cap (5A) or Remove (5B) Site Soils; Decontaminate Buildings and Remove Concrete: Under these alternatives, PCB-contaminated sediments and the concrete building slabs would be removed and disposed. Contaminated site soils would either be capped (5A) or removed and disposed (5B). The buildings, except for the concrete floor slabs, would be decontaminated and left in place.

Alternative 6- Remove PCB Sediments; Remove Site Soils, Buildings, and Concrete: Under this alternative, PCB-contaminated sediments, site soils, buildings, and the concrete floor slabs would be removed and disposed.

EPA'S PREFERRED REMEDY

EPA's preferred remedy for the Rose site is a variation of Alternative 6. This variation would achieve the same results as Alternative 6 but would include a combination of off-site landfilling and off-site incineration as a means of disposing of the contaminated materials.

The materials that will be landfilled off-site include excavated sediment with contamination levels between 0.18 parts per million (ppm) and 100 ppm, contaminated soil between 10 ppm and 100 ppm, contaminated concrete debris below 2,500 ppm and the contaminated buildings.

The materials that will be incinerated off-site include excavated sediment with contamination levels above 100 ppm, contaminated soil above 100 ppm and contaminated concrete debris above 2,500 ppm.

All excavated areas will be backfilled and covered with at least 10 inches of clean soil.

PROPOSED PLAN

The EPA has prepared a proposed plan that summarizes the remedial action alternatives considered at the Rose site, including the rationale for the EPA's selection of the preferred remedy.

The EPA will hold a Public Hearing Thursday, July 11, 1991, at 7 p.m. in the Hallar Community Building, 101 West 3rd Street in Holden to receive written/oral comments on the proposed plan and the RI/FS. The public comment period began June 20, 1991 and ends July 27, 1991. The public is invited to comment on the alternatives presented in the feasibility study and the proposed plan. These documents are contained in the administrative record file for the site.

The administrative record file (a single file of all documents relevant to the remedial action) is available for review at the Holden City Hall, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 101 West 3rd Street, and in the EPA Docket Room, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, please contact:

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